In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-31.

Claim 32 is canceled.

Cancel claims 33-41.

1      42.    [New]     A system monitoring method comprising:

2      providing a monetary budget plan with respect to performing of a job by a

3      system;

4      accessing information regarding consumption of a consumable during

5      operations of the system to perform the job;

6      associating a monetary cost with the consumption of the consumable

7      using the information;

8      comparing the monetary cost with respect to the monetary budget plan;

9      and

10      generating an alert responsive to the comparing of the monetary cost

11      with respect to the monetary budget plan.

1      43.    [New]     The method of claim 42 wherein the generating

2      comprises generating responsive to the monetary cost exceeding the monetary

3      budget plan.

1      44.    [New]     The method of claim 42 wherein the generating

2      comprises generating the alert prior to depletion of the monetary budget plan.

1      45.    [New]     The method of claim 42 further comprising estimating

2      a time until depletion of the monetary budget plan.

1      46.    [New]     The method of claim 42 further comprising providing

2      an initial quantity of consumable items of the consumable, and the consuming

3      comprises consuming the consumable items.

1      47.   [New]    The method of claim 42 wherein the accessing
2   information comprises accessing information regarding consumption of the
3   consumable comprising a plurality of consumable items.

1      48.   [New]    The method of claim 42 wherein the job comprises a
2   mass mailing and the consumable comprises a consumable of the mass mailing.

1      49.   [New]    The method of claim 42 wherein the job comprises a
2   print job and the consumable comprises paper.

1      50.   [New]    The method of claim 42 further comprising disabling
2   at least a portion of the system responsive to the comparing of the monetary
3   cost with respect to the monetary budget plan.

1      51.   [New]    A system monitoring method comprising:
2   accessing information regarding consumption of a consumable during
3   operations of a system with respect to performing at least one job;
4   providing a value indicative of the consumption of the consumable;
5   monitoring a type of the operations; and
6   adjusting the value responsive to the monitoring identifying the type of at
7   least one of the operations comprising a predetermined type of operation.

1      52.   [New]    The method of claim 51 wherein the operations of
2   the system comprise operations with respect to printing and the predetermined
3   type of operation comprises a printing operation with respect to a predetermined
4   type of printing by the system.

1      53.   [New]    The method of claim 52 wherein the predetermined
2   type of printing comprises printing a plurality of consecutive pages comprising
3   substantially the same content.

1      54.   [New]    The method of claim 52 wherein the predetermined
2   type of printing comprises printing a plurality of single page print jobs.

1    55.    [New]    The method of claim 52 wherein the predetermined
2    type of printing comprises printing a plurality of single page print jobs which are
3    not associated with one another.

1    56.    [New]    The method of claim 51 wherein the predetermined
2    type of operation comprises an intermittent operation.

1    57.    [New]    The method of claim 51 wherein the predetermined
2    type of operation comprises an intermittent operation with respect to printing.

1    58.    [New]    The method of claim 51 wherein the consumable has
2    an associated useful life, and wherein the adjusting the value is indicative of
3    increased wear of the consumable compared with wear resulting from operations
4    of the system other than the predetermined type of operation.

1    59.    [New]    The method of claim 51 further comprising providing
2    a useful life of the consumable and the value of the consumption of the
3    consumable is indicative of consumption of the useful life of the consumable.

1    60.    [New]    The method of claim 59 wherein the value is
2    indicative of a remaining useful life capacity of the consumable.

1    61.    [New]    The method of claim 59 wherein the value is
2    indicative of usage of the useful life of the consumable.

1    62.    [New]    A system monitoring apparatus comprising:
2    a controller configured to access usage information indicative of
3    consumption of a consumable over a period of time by a system to perform
4    hard imaging wherein a plurality of hard images are formed upon media, to
5    access usage profile data indicative of expected consumption of the consumable
6    over the period of time, to compare the usage information with the usage profile
7    data, and to generate an alert responsive to the usage information deviating
8    from the usage profile data.

1      63.    [New]    The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the consumable
2  comprises the media.

1      64.    [New]    The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the media
2  comprises a plurality of sheets of paper.

1      65.    [New]    The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage
2  information indicates consumption of a number of consumable items of the
3  consumable over the period of time.

1      66.    [New]    The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage
2  information indicates wear of the consumable having a fixed useful life.

1      67.    .[New]    The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the controller is
2  further configured to identify the hard imaging comprising a predetermined type
3  of hard imaging and to adjust the indication of wear responsive to the
4  identification.

1      68.    [New]    The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage profile
2  data comprises data derived from prior consumption of the consumable by the
3  system.

1      69.    [New]    The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the controller is
2  configured to disable at least a portion of the system responsive to the usage
3  information deviating from the usage profile data.

1      70.    [New]    The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the controller is
2  configured to disable an entirety of the system responsive to the usage
3  information deviating from the usage profile data.

1      71.    [New]    The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the controller is
2  configured to automatically generate a purchase order without user interaction
3  responsive to the usage information deviating from the usage profile data.

1    72.    [New]    The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the controller is
2  configured to access a monetary budget plan with respect to the consumption of
3  the consumable over the period of time, to determine monetary cost associated
4  with the consumption of the consumable over the period of time, and to
5  generate an alert responsive to the monetary cost exceeding the monetary
6  budget plan.